

Message Text

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PAGE 01 USBERL 02907 111511Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PPT-01 CA-01 CPR-01 VO-03 L-03
CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 DODE-00 /029 W
-----077610 121023Z /13

R 111050Z NOV 77
FM USMISSION USBERLIN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5679
INFO AMEMBASSY BERLIN
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY PARIS
USMISSION USNATO

C O N F I D E N T I A L USBERLIN 2907

E.O.11652: GDS
TAGS: PGOV, BQG, GE, PINS
SUBJECT: CONTROL OF US DIPLOMATIC PASSPORTS AT FRIEDRICHSTRASSE
CHECKPOINT

REF: STATE 248130

1. MISSION PROTOCOL OFFICER CALLED ON SOVIET EMBASSY OFFICER
TYUTYUNOV IN EAST BERLIN ON NOVEMBER 10 TO RAISE THE ISSUE
OF ATTEMPTED CONTROL OF US DIPLOMATIC PASSPORTS BY GDR
GUARDS AT FRIEDRICHSTRASSE CHECKPOINT. PRESENTATION HAD
RECEIVED PRIOR FRENCH AND BRITISH CONCURRENCE.

2. MISSION OFFICER EXPLAINED THAT DELAYS AHD RESULTED ON
NUMEROUS OCCASIONS SINCE EARLY SEPTEMBER INSPITE OF FACT
THAT U.S. OFFICIALS CROSSING AT CHECKPOINT HAD FOLLOWED
LONG-ESTABLISHED PROCEDURE OF SHOWING COVER AND PAGES
2 AND 3 OF PASSPORT FROM INTERIOR OF VEHICLE. GERMAN GUARDS
(SIC) SOMETIMES THEN WISHED TO SEE ADDITIONAL PAGES
IN PASSPORT OR ASKED WHETHER TRAVELLER AHD GDR VISA.
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NO TRAVELLER HAD ACTUALLY BEEN DENIED RIGHT TO PASS,
THOUGH SOME HAD BEEN DELAYED AS LONG AS 15 MINUTES.

3. MISS OFF FURTHER POINTED OUT THAT THIS PROCEDURE
OF SHOWING RELEVANT PAGES OF PASSPORT HAD BEEN AGREED
BETWEEN SOVIET AND U.S. SIDES IN 1965 AND HAD WORKED
SMOOTHLY SINCE. WE INTENDED TO CONTINUE THE PROCEDURE

AND THEREFORE EXPECTED SOVIET AUTHORITIES WOULD ADHERE TO ESTABLISHED PROCEDURES.

4. AFTER STANDARD COMMENTS ABOUT GDR RIGHT TO CONTROL ITS "BORDERS", TYUTYUNOV STRESSED SOVIET BELIEF THAT CHECKPOINT CROSSING PROCEDURES HAD NOT CHANGED "SO FAR AS WE KNOW" BUT INDICATED THAT SOVIETS WOULD CHECK WITH GDR AUTHORITIES AND GIVE U.S. SIDE A REPLY IN DUE COURSE.

5. NO QUESTIONS WERE POSED OVER STATUS OF U.S. OFFICIALS WHO HAD ENCOUNTERED DELAY IN CROSSING OR WHERE THEY WERE OFFICIALLY STATIONED NOR OVER ISSUE OF WHAT TYPE OF LICENSE PLATE VEHICLE USED BY VARIOUS TRAVELLERS MAY HAVE HAD.

6. COMMENT: TYUTYUNOV DID APPEAR TO BE SURPRISED WHEN HE REALIZED THAT GDR GUARDS HAD QUESTIONED U.S. OFFICIALS ABOUT GDR VISAS. HE COMMENTED "TO ASK IS ONE THING. TO REPLY IS ANOTHER." WE FEEL MODERATELY ENCOURAGED THAT DEMARCHE WAS NOT REJECTED OUT OF HAND AND THAT REPLY HAS BEEN PROMISED. NO HARD EVIDENCE IS AVAILABLE TO US, BUT TYUTYUNOV'S TONE WAS NOT INCOMPATIBLE WITH ONE POSSIBLE EXPLANATION, NAMELY THAT SOVIETS HAVE NOT BEEN SPECIFICALLY AWARE THAT GDR GUARDS HAVE BEEN QUESTIONING US OFFICIALS ABOUT GDR VISAS. DAVIS
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DIPLOMATIC PASSPORTS, TRAVEL CONTROLS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 11-Nov-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977USBERL02907
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770418-1084
Format: TEL
From: USBERLIN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19771167/aaaacfgc.tel
Line Count: 94
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Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
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Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
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Reference: 77 STATE 248130
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
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Review Exemptions: n/a
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